

down in honor or dishonor until the latest generation" but that so long as the people "retain their virtue and vigilance, no administration, by any extreme of wickedness or folly, can very seriously injure the government in the short space of four years."

And Lincoln was right, for on Election Day 2020, Americans by a substantial majority, voted to withhold consent to govern from an incumbent administration and confer it upon another. That act of self-government and sovereign expression was solemnized on January 20, 2021, at noon when Joseph R. Biden and KAMALA D. HARRIS took the oath of office as the 46th President and 59th Vice-President of the United States.

The Philadelphia Miracle of 1789 endures but only because we Americans resolve that it does and work to make it so. The President takes the oath of office pledging to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. As does every one of my congressional colleagues, I have sacredly pledged true faith and allegiance in defending the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic and to well and faithfully execute the duties of the office I hold. I do this ever mindful that the purpose of our form of government is "to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty for posterity."

But we all have a responsibility to preserve and strengthen this constitutional republic and pass it on to the next generation by engaging in robust, lawful, and peaceful civic activity to hold our government to account and to peaceably assemble when necessary to petition for a redress of grievances as shown by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the March on Washington, following the example of Mahatma Gandhi; by John Lewis and the Civil Rights foot soldiers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama; by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott at Seneca Falls; by Cesar Chavez leading the fight for human dignity of farmworkers, and by Black Lives Matter demonstrators protesting inequalities in the criminal justice system. For the work of democracy is never complete, our union is always in the process of being made more perfect.

Americans have suffered, endured, and survived much pain and heartbreak over the past five years. But Psalms 30:5 teaches that "weeping lasteth for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" and our collective journey towards the beloved community continues inexorably forward.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR DOUGLAS J. ERICKSEN

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, my heart is heavy as I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Senator Douglas Erickson, who passed away on December 17, 2021 after a battle with COVID-19. My prayers are with Doug's family as we mourn his passing.

Doug dedicated his life to working on behalf of the people of Whatcom County, serving in

both the Washington State House of Representatives and Senate for more than two decades. Throughout his tenure, Doug was a champion for the rights of every individual, and he was a fierce defender of the Constitution.

In Eastern Washington, Doug will always be remembered for being a strong advocate of the Snake River dams—which isn't common for someone from the West side of Washington. His pragmatic approach towards finding balanced solutions to our State's biggest environmental problems made him a special partner of mine for many years, and I will miss his leadership—along with his quick-witted humor—dearly.

Above all else, Doug was a remarkable husband to his wife Tasha, father to his daughters Elsa and Addi, friend, and neighbor. His loss will be felt deeply across the entire state of Washington for many years to come, but I thank God for giving me the blessing of calling Doug my friend.

Madam Speaker, Doug Ericksen lived an amazing life that deserves to be celebrated. In honor of his legacy, passion, and contributions that inspired so many, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Washington State Senator Doug Ericksen. May God grant him eternal peace in His kingdom.

MR. JAMES NEAL MCCOY OF DALLAS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Neal McCoy of Dallas, Texas. A quick glance at James McCoy's life is enough for anyone to tell that he was a man of extraordinary character. Throughout his entire life, he has been a beacon of academic and professional excellence and has had a profound impact on those around him.

As a true entrepreneur, Mr. McCoy, after graduating Pennsylvania State University with a Master of Science, purchased a company dedicated to supplying instruments, technology, and training for optimizing the performance of oil, water, and gas wells. This company, Echometer, blossomed under his leadership and Mr. McCoy built an impressive record as a sound, reasonable and conscious business owner lending his innovations to the public for the benefit of all. Following his success, he established the James N. McCoy Foundation. Which, since its inception, has provided support and financial assistance to a wide variety of educational, healthcare, and crime prevention organizations.

James' life was changed forever as he married the love of his life, Vicki. Together the two began a family with their son, Mark, and daughter, Melinda. The tremendous impact that James and his family have had on their community cannot be understated and will not be forgotten. The fulfilling life that James led, and his legacy, will be remembered for generations by his grandchildren. James McCoy will live on as an inspiration for those that strive for excellence.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize James McCoy's devotion to his community.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal commendations to James McCoy and his family for all they have done in service of the 4th Congressional District of Texas. May God rest the soul of this great American.

IN MEMORY OF DORIS TOPSY-ELVORD

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Doris Topsy-Elvord, an icon in the Long Beach community for more than a half century and the first African-American woman elected to the Long Beach City Council, who passed away on Wednesday, December 15.

I was fortunate to not only work with her over her many years of public service, but to also count her as a dear personal friend who provided me with advice and support throughout the decades we knew each other.

As Doris told the Long Beach Historical Society in a 2015 retrospective on her life, she was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on June 17, 1931. She and her family moved to Long Beach in 1942, where she attended and graduated from St. Anthony Elementary and High Schools. In 1956, Doris worked as a California Youth Authority counselor, followed by positions in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. For nineteen years she worked for the Los Angeles County Probation Department as a Deputy Probation Officer II. On June 22, 1988, after 35 years of public service with the California Youth Authority, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Probation Departments, she proudly retired. Along the way she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University, Long Beach and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration from Chapman College.

In 1988, Doris became a member of the City of Long Beach Civil Service Commission and served one term as president. From November 1987 through November 1989 Doris served as Commissioner of the first Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

In 1992, she became the first African-American female to be elected to the Long Beach City Council. In 1996, she was re-elected and holds the singular distinction of being selected as Vice Mayor of the City of Long Beach twice unanimously. During this time, she successfully organized the Jim Wilson Memorial BBQ Cook-Off Gospel and Blues Festival, the Herb Smith Annual Slowpitch Tournament, and the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Unity Parade and Celebration.

Over her lengthy career, Doris received many deserving honors and accolades from numerous organizations and individuals, including being inducted into the St. Anthony High School Hall of Fame in 1991. In 1993, she was named Woman of the Year by the Long Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce and the following year she was honored by the California State Senate as Woman of the Year.

In 2003, she was nominated to join the Port of Long Beach Harbor Commission by then-

Mayor Beverly O'Neill. Doris became the first African American and only the third woman to serve on the five-member port commission in its nearly 80-year history. During her tenure at the port, which included a year as board president in 2005, she was instrumental in the expansion of the port's Small Business Enterprise Program. Doris also helped to develop the port's Green Port Policy, which helped to reduce the negative environmental impacts of port operations. Doris later called her five years on the commission, "some of the most challenging and rewarding of my career."

Doris remained a tremendous force in the community throughout her life. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Eta Phi Beta Business and Professional Sorority, National Association of Civil Service Commissioners, National Council of Negro Women, and California Probation, Parole and Corrections Association. She also served on the Board of Trustees of St. Mary Medical Center, the Executive Board of the Children's Dental Foundation at Memorial Medical Center, and the Community Advisory Board of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

She co-founded the African American Heritage Society with Indira Hale Tucker and others to raise money for educational materials on African Americans. In 2010, the Micro-Enterprise Charter Academy was renamed the Doris Topsy-Elvord Academy (A Micro-Enterprise School) in her honor.

In addition, she was featured in the 1997 book "No Mountain High Enough: Secrets of Successful African American Women" by Dorothy Ehrhart Morrison. Doris was one of the Long Beach, California, pioneering dozen, chronicled in a 2015 collection of historical profiles, *BREAKING THROUGH* *Lighting the Way*, edited by Sunny Nash with foreword by Carolyn Smith Watts. "This project introduced our community to local women with a mission similar to that of Rosa Parks," said Nash.

"Mother Doris," as she was so often referred to by the community, paved the way for Long Beach's diverse city council. She was the city's first black woman councilmember, Vice Mayor, and remains an inspiring parental figure to many.

Doris Topsy-Elvord's inspiring life included travels and explorations to every continent except Antarctica. She had a rich family life with husband, Ralph, three sons, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT PATRICK SIANO

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shelby County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Patrick Siano on his retirement after 34 years of service to our community. Lieutenant Siano's uncle Ralph used to tell him that if you really love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. Lieutenant Siano loved his work and said he's never had to work a day in his life. He also said that the decision to retire was a tough one since he'd gone into law enforcement to help people.

His desire to help people was the subject of a "Strolling with Eldon Roark" column in the

Memphis Press-Scimitar in the 1970s, when the lieutenant was still a teenager and was singled out for helping a couple repair a blown radiator hose.

December 30 was his last day with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office in the Civil Division. Over his more than 30-year career, Lieutenant Siano was assigned to Courts, Metro DUI, Detectives (including homicide, child protective services and domestic violence), Reserve, Emergency Services, Uniform Patrol and Fugitive Divisions. He often interacted with new recruits as a field training officer and DUI instructor.

Lieutenant Siano is the middle child of seven children of Jerry and Edna Aikens Siano. His late father was a native of Chicago who came to Memphis as an entrepreneur and founded Jerry Siano Foods. A native of Memphis, Lieutenant Siano attended St. Michael School, Christian Brothers High School and the then-Memphis State University before a driving work ethic led to his father's Honda of Millington dealership, where he sold motorcycles. But he always wanted to be a sheriff's deputy and began as a reserve officer in 1984, working 100 hours a month for almost four years before attending the academy and becoming a deputy in 1988.

Always known for his respect for the law and for his kindness, his service to Memphis and Shelby County will be valued and deeply missed. I am pleased that he can now spend a pleasant retirement with his wife of 12 years, Susan, his two children and six grandchildren, his fellow deputies, and his many friends. He truly made Memphis a better and safer place to live.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH "JOE" EGGLESTON GARDNER, JR.

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Joseph "Joe" Eggleston Gardner, Jr., who passed away on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at the age of 72, in San Antonio, Texas.

Joe was born in Washington, D.C., on March 26, 1949. However, he was raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. He graduated from Sewanee Military Academy and earned degrees at both the University of Texas and Texas A&M University.

Joe contributed generously to civic organizations by serving on the Texas Water Development Board, the Nueces River Authority, and the Del Mar College Board of Directors. He also co-founded the Animal Rescue Foundation in Seguin, Texas. Joe was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Corpus Christi and I was a board member of Saint Joseph's Anglican Church in New Braunfels.

Joe and I first met 40 years ago when we served on the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners together. Joe was the first public member ever appointed, and I was the youngest dentist ever selected for the board. We were the new guys, but I knew dentistry, and Joe knew "Robert's Rules of Order," a guide of parliamentary procedure, and it was not long before we made our mark.

We had much in common, and our friendship endured long after our Dental Board tenures. He was a student of history and an astute political mind. Since his teenage years, Joe was an active member of the Republican Party. He was on the staff of Senator John Tower, the first Republican Senator elected from Texas since the Civil War. Joe also served on the Congressional Republican Caucus, and he was, at one time, a candidate for U.S. Congress. He did not win, but he never gave up, and he never gave in on his strong conservative beliefs.

Joe is preceded in death by his mother, Neely Laura Procter Gardner of Houston, Texas, and his father, Joseph Eggleston Gardner, M.D., of Greenwood, Mississippi. He is survived by his daughter, Rebecca Sarah Gardner of Savannah, Georgia; his son, Joseph Eggleston Peyton Gardner of Austin, Texas; and his brother, William Frank Gardner of Houston, Texas.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to honor my friend Joe Gardner today on the House floor. He was one-of-a-kind, always faithful, funny, and someone you could count on in good times and bad. I will be forever grateful for his friendship and will miss him dearly. My heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE STORMING OF THE U.S. CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6, 2021

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the United States Federal government's involvement, provocation, and cover-up pursuant to their role in encouraging protestors to enter the United States Capitol building on January 6, 2021. I include in the RECORD the following links so the American people can review the involvement and protection of Federal assets before and after the storming of the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021

<https://www.revolver.news/2021/10/meet-ray-epps-the-fed-protected-provocateur-who-appears-to-have-led-the-very-first-1-6-attack-on-the-u-s-capitol/>.

<https://www.revolver.news/2021/12/damning-new-details-massive-web-unindicted-operators-january-6/>.

<https://www.revolver.news/2021/06/stewart-rhodes-oath-keepers-missing-link-fbi-unindicted-coconspirator/>.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MCINTIRE-STENNIS ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the McIntire-Stennis Act District of Columbia Equality Act, which would correct an apparent oversight in the exclusion of the District of Columbia from eligibility for funding under the McIntire-Stennis Act (Act).